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Team Canada skip Pat Simmons celebrates defeating Northern Ontario to win the gold-medal game at the Brier in Calgary on Sunday. For the story, see page 25. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

GSA talk ‘defining moment’ for Alberta: Jansen

Politics. Premier pledges to ‘deal with this issue’

There’s overwhelming support for gay-straight alliances in Alberta schools and planned legislation due back in the legislature this spring will reflect that, says a Calgary MLA who’s long steered efforts to boost student inclusion.

In an interview, Calgary North-West PC MLA Sandra Jansen stopped short of detailing exactly what would be included in the revised Bill 10, expected to be introduced in the spring legislative session, which starts Tuesday.

Jansen did point to recent consultation by the Rocky Mountain Civil Liberties Association as evidence of the important role the clubs can play.

Through public hearings and an online survey, the association found 82.5 per cent of respondents supported GSAs in public schools and 77.1 per cent in Catholic schools.

“The fact that people really sat down and talked about what defines a GSA, I thought, was an incredibly defining moment in this province,” Jansen said. “(GSAs) promote inclusivity, they make kids feel safer and I think it’s a good thing.”

The consultation came in the wake of heated debate over initial versions of Bill 10 that would have required support for GSAs, but not necessarily on school property.

Many members of the LGBTQ community blasted that aspect of the bill, claiming a rival bill pitched by Liberal MLA Laurie Blakeman was stronger.

Alexis Hood, a transgender student who faced bullying until a GSA was formed at her Forest Lawn High School, said this will be a ballot-box issue for her and many other Albertans.

“In a democratic society, the people dictate the laws they want and from what I’ve see Alberta is ready for it (mandatory GSA support).”

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

11-time builder of movie night with the kids

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Housing.
Plan aims to register illegal suites

Depending on whose estimate you take, Calgary has thousands — if not tens of thousands — of illegal secondary suites, and this week city councillors will consider a new plan for bringing them out of the shadows and into the legal realm.

"This is a novel approach," said Coun. Richard Pootmans, one of four councillors on a "working group" tasked with improving secondary-suite safety.

The plan involves registering suites with the city and giving landlords an official "safe suite sticker" that would make rental units easily identifiable as legal to prospective tenants.

It would also encourage landlords to upgrade currently questionable suites through an 18-month grace period during which time the need for a development permit would be waived in areas currently zoned to permit secondary suites.

"This would remove uncertainty and reduce the application time from weeks to less than an hour," reads a report to be presented to councillors on Wednesday.

Greg Miller of Calgarians for Secondary Suites believes there would be an incentive for landlords to register their suites — especially as the housing market softens — as legal suites would "carry more value" than under-the-table rental units.

"As a parent, with kids who are of that age getting ready now to go out in the world, I know I would feel much better knowing that they're in one that's certified and legal," Miller said. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Plan lets travel points help pay student loans

Education. Aeroplan now an 'innovative' option to assist those in Alberta pursuing higher learning

LEAH HOLOIDAY
Metro in Edmonton

Convincing their parents to fly them to Cuba for reading week just got easier for some post-secondary students, as the province will now accept travel reward miles to pay down student loans.

The program, launched in January, allows students to pay back their student debt with Aeroplan miles.

For 35,000 points, students can skim $250 off their loan.

Innovation and Advanced Education Minister Don Scott called the program an "innovative repayment option" that gives students another way to pay back debt.

"Anyone can donate their points to support any student pursuing their goal of post-secondary education," said Scott about the Higher Ed Points program.

Not only will students be allowed to pay with points for loans, pupils from eight Alberta institutions will also be able to use travel rewards to pay for tuition, meal plans and residency.

"It's a really innovative way to address a student loan," said Scott. "If you have friends that travel a lot, hopefully they'll be quite excited to help a student with their education."

Scott said he would like to see a strong student aid and student loan program in the province, and programs like Higher Ed Points is just one way to give students more options.

The Alberta government launched a program in January that allows for the repayment of student loans with Aeroplan miles. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO IN EDMONTON

Details

- Through the Higher Ed Points program, the points are converted to currency.
- Alberta College of Art and Design, Concordia University College of Alberta, Lethbridge College, Olds College, Red Deer College, King's College, SAIT, King's University and University of Lethbridge are the eight institutions that will be accepting the points for pay for tuition, meal plans and residency.

"Right now we have loans, bursaries and grants and, as we go forward, I'm looking to strengthen that system."

Tyler Ludwig, president of the Concordia Student Association, said anything that makes it easier for students to pay back loans is a good move, but he suspects most of the rewards will be coming from parents.

"I think the only way it's going to really work is if parents have Aeroplan points. I think students, for the most part, they're not spending outrageous amounts of money to get Aeroplan points," he said. "I think it provides an opportunity for parents to pitch in in a non-monetary way with Aeroplan points."

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City puts priority on the pedestrian realm

Infrastructure.
Some neighbourhoods still don't even have sidewalks, pedestrian advocate notes

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary isn't exactly the easiest city to get around on foot, a problem not denied by the project manager for the city's new "pedestrian strategy."

As such a basic mode of transportation, walking has been given short shrift as Calgary has grown and developed, Andrew King admits.

"Because it's that universal, there hasn't been much focus on it," he said. "It's almost like breathing; everybody can breathe, but nobody thinks about it."

That's something the city hopes to start changing in earnest this year.

It was just over a year ago that transportation general manager Mac Logan first revealed to city council that a pedestrian-specific "strategy" was being developed. Since then, work has progressed to the point that the city is now planning a series of public events, starting Tuesday, to get suggestions for improvements.

Kimberly Nelson, a pedestrian advocate who runs the Walk Calgary Twitter and Facebook accounts, said it's "really unfortunate" how walking has been virtually ignored by the city in the past.

"I know some communities that don't have sidewalks even now; that's just the way they were built," she said. "How do you retrofit a city that didn't have the goal of walkability in mind when it started?"

King hopes to begin answering those questions with the public kickoff events.

Two key goals of the pedestrian strategy are to improve pedestrian safety and to ensure "universal accessibility" of pedestrian infrastructure, he said.

"A third goal would be improving the quality and experience of the pedestrian realm, and that's quite important," he added.

At the public events, King said, city staff want to hear about "why people walk and what's important to them."

Feedback will be compiled in a report set to go before the transportation and transit committee in October and on to council in November.

Details

The first of five upcoming pedestrian-strategy public kickoff events runs March 10 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Glenmore Inn, Glenmore West Room, at 2720 Glenmore Trail S.E.

Sisters Roha Abid, left, and Fashiha Abid cross the street near the intersection of Saddletowne Circle and Falconridge Boulevard N.E. on Sunday. They say many drivers don't yield to pedestrians at the busy intersection during rush hour.
ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

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Protest. Mirrors wielded to decry premier's comments

Protesters upset about some controversial comments from Alberta Premier Jim Prentice arrived at the legislature armed with mirrors on Saturday.

Prentice told a radio call-in show that Albertans should "look in the mirror" if they want to know who is responsible for the current fiscal situation in Alberta.

The protesters say Prentice is the one who should look in the mirror, and brought with them handheld mirrors of various shapes and sizes.

Prentice has been ridiculed and criticized widely on social media after he told Albertans to look in the mirror to understand who is responsible for the province's financial state.

He's shrugged off accusations that he insulted Albertans, and joked with a Manning Centre audience in Ottawa that prior to a TV interview, he was offered a mirror to get rid of his makeup and turned the offer down.

Quoted

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's to blame for this shortfall?"

Chant from protesters at the legislature

"Two days ago our premier blamed Albertans for Alberta's fiscal mess and he's stuck by that," Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan said.

"He's had two days now to retract those statements, but he has doubled down."

Prentice has said his call-in show comment had been taken out of context. He said Albertans got into the current economic circumstance together and the only solutions will be to get out of it together.

Provincial opposition leaders have called on him to apologize, given that it was his own Progressive Conservative party that managed the province's books for more than 40 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Massive blaze on 17th Ave. prompts extended closures

Emergency response. No injuries reported in Saturday's 2-alarm fire, but stretches of roads in the area remained closed on Sunday

The aftermath on Sunday of the fire that broke out Saturday in a four-storey condo under construction in the Mission area. Inset: The fire near its peak on Saturday afternoon. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO; INSET: COURTESY NEWSTALK 700

Roads remained closed Sunday for blocks around the scene of a massive structure fire on Calgary's busy 17th Avenue that broke out shortly before noon Saturday.

There were no injuries reported in the two-alarm fire that broke out in a four-storey condo block under construction in the Mission area, near the intersection of 17 Avenue and Centre Street, according to the Calgary Fire Department.

Fire crews used aerials and elevated platforms to contain and subdue the blaze, the fire department said in a statement. A nearby residential building was also evacuated.

Thick black smoke billowed from the burning building and was visible as far away as Bragg Creek. Area residents said the heat from the fire could be felt from blocks away.

Road closures remained in effect along three blocks of 17 Avenue and three blocks of 18 Avenue South, according to police. METRO

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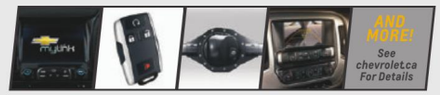

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This preliminary rendering shows what the facility at 2720-80 Ave. SE could look like. COURTESY CALGARY WINTER LACROSSE

'The only way we can move forward'

Ogden. Councillor urges city to waive acreage assessment levy where lacrosse league hopes to build new facility

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Non-profit societies like the one that wants to build an indoor lacrosse centre on a piece of vacant land in Ogden shouldn't have to pay the same kinds of fees as large-scale greenfield developers, says a southeast city councillor.

Coun. Shane Keating wants the city to waive the acreage assessment levy that would normally be due for the parcel at 2720-80 Ave. SE, where Calgary Winter Lacrosse hopes to build a new facility.

The levies are a funding mechanism the city charges developers. The money is used to pay for infrastructure costs such as roads, utilities, fire stations and recreation facilities that are needed to support the new development.

But Keating said it's unfair to charge a non-profit group that's already using its own fundraising to build a recreation facility a fee that's partly aimed at building recreation facilities.

In the case of the Ogden site, the levy would amount to roughly $1.3 million at current rates, but the city plans to renegotiate the rates with developers before the end of 2015, so the price could rise even higher.

In a letter to be presented to councillors, Brian Couronne of Calgary Winter Lacrosse writes, "There is no way we can afford a tax of this magnitude."

A city committee will review the matter Wednesday, and consider using reserve funds to cover the fee.

Keating said that would effectively amount to an accounting trick by which the city would shuffle money from one of its accounts to another, and he'd prefer to see a "better solution" in the long term. But this would suffice for the moment, he said, given the struggles Calgary Winter Lacrosse has had even getting the project to this point.

"It's the only way we can move forward at this point because the longer we delay this organization, the more difficulty they're going to have in being able to have a future," Keating said.

Body of woman in 'early 40s' found in downtown parkade

Calgary police are investigating after the body of a woman was found in a downtown parkade on Sunday afternoon.

Det. Steve Adair said police received a call around 1:30 p.m. from a passerby who found the body on the third level of a parkade in the 900 block of 9 Avenue SW.

Upon arrival, officers located the body of a deceased female, Adair said.

The woman was believed to be in her "early 40s," said EMS spokesman Stuart Brideaux.

"She was declared deceased there," Brideaux said. "There was no resuscitation attempt and she was not transported (to hospital.)"

The Calgary Medical Examiner was also on scene.

METRO

Investigation

Few details were immediately available, but Adair said the Calgary Police Service's District 1 General Investigative Unit is leading the investigation. Homicide unit detectives had not yet been called in, he said, as the cause of death was not yet determined.

Veronica Hernandez joined the International Women's Day celebrations on Sunday afternoon. She said the day reflects the past years of women's fight for equality. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Crowd honours Women's Day

Cardel Place.

Hour-long celebration featured Irish dancers, aboriginal singers and a hip-hop routine

JENNIFER FRIESEN
calgary@metronews.ca

A crowd of nearly 100 people gathered at Cardel Place in Calgary to celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday afternoon.

Veronica Hernandez stood among the men and women in the crowd, saying that she felt proud to see everyone come out. She moved to Calgary from Venezuela in 2009, but had to give up her career as a journalist to care for her children.

Hernandez said it's difficult for women to pursue their careers because different expectations are placed on them, but added that she's seen a lot of advances being made.

"As women, we have achieved so much after many fights, a lot of blood and a lot of suffering," she said.

"But we're at a moment where we can talk and remember that we still have issues that we have to work on, and we can move [forward]," Hernandez said.

The hour-long celebration featured Irish dancers, traditional aboriginal signers, a hip-hop routine by Pulse Studios and a cheeky feminist take on The Paperbag Princess.

Eleah Reimer, event coordinator, said Calgarians should stand in solidarity with the women around the world who face daily atrocities, adding "these atrocities happen in our own backyard — violence against women isn't far away from us, look at all the missing and murdered aboriginal women."

"We just really wanted to celebrate the different voices of Canadian women," said Reimer. "We have a lot of equality and opportunities here in Canada, but there are still a lot we need to overcome."

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IN THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA
BETWEEN:
ROBERT SCHUETT PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION *(Plaintiff)*
AND: DON TROTCHIE *(Defendant)*

To: DON TROTCHIE

Take note that on June 13, 2014, a Civil Claim was filed against you by Robert Schuett Professional Corporation, #200, 602 – 11 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2R 1J8. You may receive a copy of the Plaintiff's documents by contacting the Plaintiff directly at the address above or by calling Robert Schuett at 403-705-1263, or requesting it from the Calgary Courts Centre 601 - 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 5P7. If you do not respond to this claim, the court may note you in Default."

Alpha House reopens after fatal fire

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

One man was killed in a fire early Saturday morning at Alpha House Calgary that prompted the evacuation of 160 people from the core-area emergency shelter, which remained closed until Sunday afternoon.

"Alpha House Calgary is saddened by the tragic death of our client in last night's fire," the agency said in a statement.

"We are like a close-knit family and care deeply for the people we serve. This loss of life of a friend and client impacts our clients and staff in a significant way."

Alpha House spokesman Adam Melnyk said it's been a difficult time for staff and clients alike but everyone "pulled together" to get the facility, which serves people with addictions, back up and running.

The shelter re-opened Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Clients had been temporarily housed at the nearby Calgary Drop In.

Fire damage to the Alpha House building was largely contained to the bathroom where the blaze originated, Melnyk said, with some water damage to other parts, including offices.

In addition to its regular need for donations of cash and personal hygiene products, the shelter is also now looking also looking to replace about $10,000 in sleeping mats and other items damaged in the fire, Menlyk said.

More information is available at alphahousecalgary.com/Donations.html.

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Explanations differ for soldier's death

Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron. Kurdish officials say soldier was on the front lines, but a military official disputes claims

Canadian and Kurdish officials on Sunday offered conflicting accounts of the death of a Canadian soldier in a friendly-fire incident in Iraq, with the Kurds saying he was on the front lines directing airstrikes and the Canadians saying he was not there to direct airstrikes that night and was well behind the front line when shot by the Kurds.

The death of Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron on Friday marked Canada's first casualty as part of the U.S.-led coalition's war on the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group. Three other Canadian soldiers were injured in the incident.

Kurdish officials said Sunday that Doiron was killed after he and other Canadian soldiers showed up to the front line unannounced to call in airstrikes.

Quoted

"It's a regrettable case of mistaken identity. Obviously we want to know what happened."

Defence Minister Jason Kenney

"They went to the front line to direct airstrikes because the area was attacked by (ISIL) the day before," said Hezhar Ismail, director of co-ordination and relations for Kurdish peshmerga forces. Peshmerga spokesman Halgurd Hekmat said a group of Canadian soldiers showed up unannounced Friday to the village of Bashiq near the militant-held city of Mosul.

"When they returned, the peshmerga asked them to identify themselves," Hekmat said. "They answered in Arabic; that's when peshmerga started shooting. It was their fault."

But Canadian Defence Minister Jason Kenney and a senior Canadian military official said the soldiers had returned to an observation post at least 200 metres behind the front line.

The senior military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Canadian soldiers were at the same observation post earlier in the day and co-ordinated with the Kurdish soldiers on how they would return that evening and what signals they would give. The official said the soldiers passed through two Kurdish positions before reaching the third post, where they were fired upon.

"They got lit up by one guy for reasons that are unknown to us," the official said. The official also said the Canadian soldiers were not at the front line to direct airstrikes that night. When asked if they were scouting potential airstrike targets, he declined to say what they were doing.

The three injured soldiers were in stable condition. The official said Doiron's body won't be flown back to Canada until Tuesday at the earliest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fahmy to advocate for imprisoned journalists

Canadian acting bureau chief of Al Jazeera English, Mohamed Fahmy, left, leaves court with his fiancée Marwa Omara after a hearing in his retrial Sunday in Cairo, Egypt. The retrial of Fahmy and another Al Jazeera English journalist, Baher Mohammed, both of whom face terror-related charges in Egypt, has been postponed to March 19. The Canadian journalist says he wants to make every moment of his time count. To that end, Fahmy is launching an organization that will advocate for imprisoned members of the press. The 40-year-old was recently released on bail after more than a year in a Cairo prison. The motivation for the Fahmy Foundation for Free Press came from his own experience behind bars. PHOTO: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wind farms foes

Court slashes $340K legal bill

Four rural families who lost their fight against the construction of wind farms near their homes will have to pay a total of $67,000 to the companies they took to court.

The costs award is far less than the $340,000 the three wind companies were demanding because, as Ontario's Divisional Court ruled, the families' battle was more than a personal crusade. Shawn Drennan, whose home near Goderich, Ont., is near a 140-turbine project, said he was pleased the ruling has cut his bill to $25,000 from more than $200,000. The court rejected arguments that they should have to pay none of the companies' legal bills. THE CANADIAN PRESS

China

New 10-year visas allowed by China

The federal government has announced that Canadians will now be allowed 10-year multiple-entry visas into China.

The Department of Foreign Affairs says the new visas will ease travel and reduce costs for Canadians. The visas are meant to benefit business people who regularly travel between the two countries, as well as tourists and Canadians visiting family members.

Travellers can now submit their requests to Chinese consulates and authorities for the new visas, which are valid for up to 10 years. China is Canada's second-largest trading partner, with two-way merchandise trade reaching $78 billion in 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger and his son Pascal celebrate his win at the NDP leadership convention in Winnipeg, Sunday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Selinger still the premier of Manitoba

NDP. Incumbent barely defeats former health minister Theresa Oswald in difficult leadership race

Quoted

"I know it started out rough, but I think we've come out of this stronger."

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger will lead his divided NDP into next year's election after barely winning the support of party delegates in a hard-fought leadership race.

Selinger beat former health minister Theresa Oswald by 33 votes on the second ballot of a leadership campaign on Sunday that was prompted by an internal revolt within the governing NDP. Selinger took just over 51 per cent of the vote with 759 ballots, while Oswald — who resigned from cabinet after calling for Selinger to step down — won 49 per cent.

"I know it started out rough, but I think we've come out of this stronger," Selinger told reporters. "Sure, there have been bumps and grinds along the way and there are lots of specific issues that people were unhappy about but, at the end of the day, you saw a good atmosphere in the room. I think that bodes well for the future."

Selinger was forced into the leadership race after Oswald and four other senior cabinet ministers called on him to resign last October, as the party slumped in opinion polls.

Former infrastructure minister Steve Ashton, who ran against Selinger for the leadership in 2009, was dropped from the race after finishing last on the first ballot.

He did not endorse either candidate, leaving supporters to "use their best judgment." Selinger has faced public anger since raising the provincial sales tax to eight per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Families of Flight 370 victims won't give up

Malaysia Airlines. Despite an intensive yearlong search, no trace of the Boeing 777 has been found

Vowing never to give up on the desperate search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, family members of those aboard the plane wore symbolic T-shirts and released white balloons Sunday as they marked the anniversary of the jet's disappearance.

Gatherings were held in Kuala Lumpur, where the flight departed on March 8, 2014, and Beijing, where it was headed when it vanished with 239 people aboard. Despite an intensive yearlong search, no trace of the Boeing 777 has been found.

"My daughter asks me every day, 'Where is Daddy? Why isn't he answering his phone?'" a teary-eyed Kelly Wen from China, whose husband was on the plane, said at a gathering at a Kuala Lumpur mall to mark the anniversary.

The more than 100 people who gathered wore white T-shirts with the picture of an airplane and bearing the words "Search on," as a video tribute of the passengers and crew members was played.

About 30 family members later went on stage for speeches and a group photo.

One man dedicated a poem to his cousin Anne Daisy, who was aboard the plane. "You have been hidden from me. I don't know where to search. When will we once again meet?" Raymund Gagarin said.

Daisy's 27-year-old daughter, Grace Subathirai Nathan, then gave a speech in tribute to her mother. Nathan, who helped organize the event, said she was in London when the tragedy occurred.

"Every day is like a living nightmare. I miss my mother so much. She was to me my everything," an emotional Nathan said. "It is so important that we have some form of closure. It is so important not to give up on the people that we love." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives of passengers on board the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 protest near the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing on the one-year anniversary, Sunday. NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In pictures: International Women's Day

1 A woman holds up a placard with a feminist image combining a female gender symbol and a black-power fist during a women's-day march in Berlin. GETTY IMAGES

2 People march from the United Nations to Times Square in New York City. About 1,000 people gathered for the rally. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Activists shout slogans during a march through the streets of the Moroccan capital, as they mark International Women's Day in Rabat, Sunday. ABDELJALIL BOUNHAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 An activist performs in favour of the legalization of abortion as part of International Women's Day in Sao Paulo, Brazil. NELSON ALMEIDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Health. Consumers not at risk for mad cow: Expert

Canada's chief veterinary officer says some cattle associated with the investigation into a case of mad cow disease in Alberta were slaughtered over the last few years and entered the human food chain.

But Harpreet Kochhar said consumers are not at risk because of Canada's bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) safeguards.

"There is no food-safety concern here because any of these animals would have been slaughtered and the specified risk material, which is the material which actually harbours prions, (would) have been removed completely — and that is because of the enhanced feed ban," Kochhar said, adding that if any cattle displayed symptoms they would not have been brought to a slaughterhouse.

Last week, a report posted on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) site indicated that 317 cattle out of 750 associated with the BSE investigation had been slaughtered.

The numbers refer to cattle born within one year of a BSE cow's March 2009 birth. Both numbers have since been removed from the OIE website.

Kochhar said the posting was an initial draft and the slaughter number was not correct and could be "approximately right within 95 per cent confidence."

Investigators are working to confirm the total, which will be submitted to the OIE, he said.

A typical BSE investigation takes about six months before a final report can be submitted to the OIE, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL, Samsung Canada set up corporate partnership deal

A woman uses a smartphone to take photos of an NHL game. A new partnership will give Samsung smartphone users access to NHL video content not available on other devices. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smartphones. Exclusive league content will be featured on Samsung's mobile devices

The NHL and Samsung Canada are expected to announce that the electronics manufacturer will become an official corporate sponsor of the league. But the deal isn't just about placing logos on rink boards.

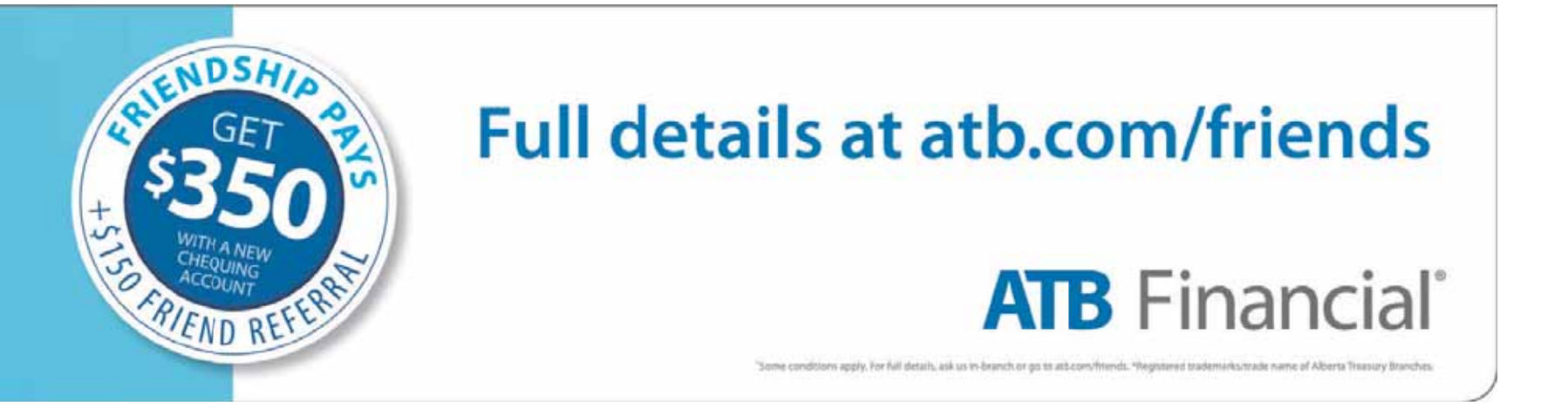
When Samsung smartphone users download the NHL app, they'll have access to videos that iPhone and BlackBerry users can't view — specifically, edited footage from the league's "Situation Room," where officials watch videos, then issue rulings on disputes.

The move is an attempt to find an edge in an ultra-competitive smartphone market. According to a 2013 Ipsos-Reid survey, 29 per cent of Canadian mobile phone users have Samsung devices, while 33 per cent use iPhones.

"It's become an interesting race in the mobile space. If I can create a compelling reason for you to switch off that platform to my platform, it's beneficial for us," said Paul Brannen, Samsung Canada's senior vice-president of mobile solutions.

The agreement will allow Samsung to showcase its products, while allowing the NHL to keep pace with fans' shifting viewing habits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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Digital campaigning critical to politicians: Experts

One after one, delegates to a conservative political conference in Ottawa this weekend pulled a lever on a machine press to create small political lapel buttons in support of their cause of choice.

Then they ventured over to another room to learn how to leverage potentially the biggest button for the upcoming federal election: the like button on Facebook.

But what they're learning is that it's not just about getting people to hit that button — it's what a politician does next.

"Yes, you want engagement and that's where it all begins, but to the extent that you can target the right audience to get the outcome you want that's even better," Kevin Chan, the head of public policy for Facebook Canada, told delegates at the Manning Centre's networking conference.

Targeting voters is not a new political strategy for the Conservative party in particular, renowned for an approach to wooing Canadians via niche tax breaks and a highly-oiled fundraising machine.

But those efforts in the past relied largely on the data the party could capture itself and social media provides an entirely new level of intelligence.

The importance of technology in the upcoming election was highlighted by its dominance on the Manning Centre's agenda this year — roughly a quarter of the sessions touched on some aspect of the digital campaign.

Some of what the data can do is improve existing strategies: knowing that the majority of Facebook users are online between 9 and 10 p.m. can make that the best time to post a pitch.

Quoted

"When this is done right, it's really good for democracy. People are going to be able to have a running conversation with a political leader that's personal, that is direct, that is actually the data is done right and is therefore delivered to them in a really effective way."

Mike Moschella, vice-president of NationBuilder, a U.S.-based company that helps people organize online.

But figuring out who to send that pitch to is where the data comes to life: Facebook can match voter lists gathered by parties to Facebook users and then target just those users with particular ads, and go even further by taking those profiles and looking for users who are similar, and help politicians blast them with ads as well.

One company is helping conservatives in Canada do the same thing with Twitter data, harvesting profiles of those with clear links to conservative ideology — identified who they follow or other markers — whose names can then be run against existing donor and other party databases in order to search for potential new volunteers and donors.

While everyone may talk about the campaign being about so-called "big data," it's actually about linking together smaller components of information, said Mike Moschella, the vice president of NationBuilder, a U.S.-based company that helps people organize online.

The end goal is to create more relevant and useful interactions between people and would-be elected representatives that actually motivate people to participate in the political process, whether by donating or just showing up to vote.

"Following old habits may feel comfortable and may seem predictable but these habits assume the campaign's method of communication, voter preferences and get out of the vote tactics have remained static," Colin McKay, the head of public policy for Google Canada told the conference.

"It's clear that Canadians, as consumers, citizens and voters, have come to expect more."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political engagement

Just as politicians are discovering new ways to use social media, so are Canadians.

- **Information-gathering.** Research compiled by Google shows that on average a voter will make 14.7 attempts to get information about an issue online before deciding how to cast a ballot.

VOICES

DEBATE ON ARENA QUIET, FOR NOW

Everyone from politicians to the public seems to be against the prospect of the city paying for a new downtown arena for the Flames

KLASZUS' CALGARY
Jeremy Klaszus

Is Calgary heading into an emotional, divisive debate over how to pay for a new hockey arena?

So far, it seems pretty sane and one-sided. Yes, the discussion's just beginning, but the early consensus of Calgarians is a promising sign.

Edmonton's recent debate on the same subject was dramatic, to say the least. There were shouting matches at city hall. There were deep rifts between city councillors. There were threats to move the Oilers elsewhere.

It was, in a word, ugly. The end result was a deal for a $480-million downtown Edmonton arena that sees the city covering most of the project costs, largely through a community revitalization levy (raised through new downtown development), a ticket tax and parking revenue.

By contrast, the recent talk in Calgary about a new downtown arena for the Flames — rumoured to be planned for the West Village, where the Greyhound station is, or near the current Stampede Park site — doesn't seem divided at all.

Here, everyone from politicians to the public seems to have the same response when the prospect of the city paying for the arena is raised: "No."

If Flames owners want a new arena, they can pay for it. They have the means.

The odd person has suggested the city should kick in some cash, but Mayor Naheed Nenshi has sent a clear message that he doesn't view public investment in private sports facilities as prudent. Other councillors have reinforced this message.

Even amid the brouhaha last week over Edmonton getting concert acts that Calgary doesn't because of the Saddledome's dated design, Nenshi wrote on Twitter: "Should taxpayer money be used to subsidize Madonna coming? Is there a public policy reason to do so?"

The answer is in the question. No.

Mind you, there are different degrees of no. In an interview with the Calgary Herald, Coun. Ward Sutherland said "the best option" might be for the city to provide land for the arena and nothing more. (This is itself a form of significant financial support, given the extremely high value of inner-city land.)

And it's still early. Sports franchise owners pull all sorts of shenanigans in order to win public money for their projects.

A certain coyness is already evident. Flames CEO Ken King became the talk of the town last week when he did a radio interview with KISS 95.9, indicating that an announcement is coming in a few weeks — and that the arena would indeed be downtown.

"Wow," was inner-city councillor Druh Farrell's response on Twitter. "That would be the first I've heard of it."

It seems councillors would prefer to hear these things from King himself, rather than learning of his plans via the media. King and Nenshi are scheduled to meet in a matter of weeks.

In the meantime, we can be grateful that Calgary's arena debate is refreshingly rational and free from emotion — at least for now.

Your Calgary

Dog days of winter are not so bad

Reader Stuart Mair snapped this shot of his dog Bear on Stephen Avenue.

Photo submitted by Metro reader Stuart Mair

SEE YOUR SHOT HERE:
Send us high-quality snaps of your city to readers@metronews.ca

Upcoming

Let's Talk Depression speaker night at University of Calgary Distress Centre

The University of Calgary Distress Centre on Campus is hosting a Let's Talk Depression speaker night on March 9 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Arts Lounge.

Guest speakers will address a wide range of issues, including depression, humour and mental health and the stigma attached to mental health.

The event is part of the Defeat Depression national mental-health awareness campaign.

METRO

Shakespeare's King Lear at Theatre Calgary

Shakespeare fans can get their fix starting this week as Theatre Calgary presents King Lear — from March 10 to April 12.

It's the story of King Lear and his plans to divide his kingdom with his three daughters. The catch? His decision is based on which one shares their love for him the best.

Tickets for the show at Max Bell Theatre can be purchased at theatrecalgary.com.

METRO

metro

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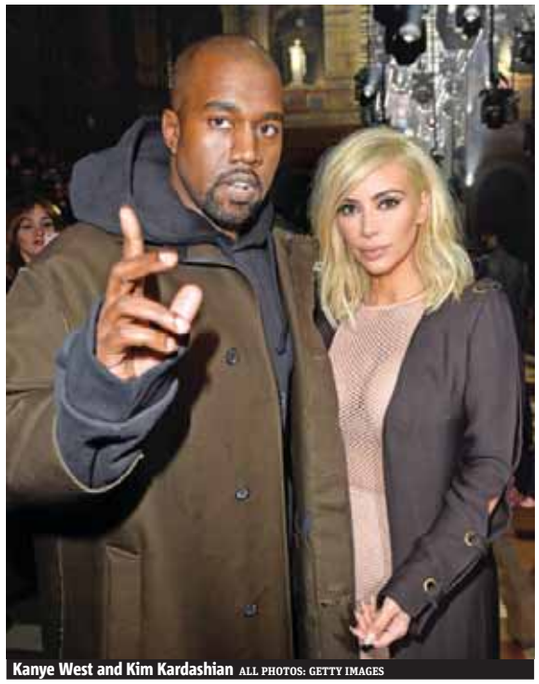
Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Kanye West and Kim Kardashian ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Air from Kanye concert blows up

Kardashian tweet: WOW he can sell anything! Lol

I'm honestly surprised it took this long for the Internet to reach this level of crazy.

One trailblazing eBay auctioneer put up a sealed plastic bag purported to contain "air from Kanye show," which sounds pretty stupid — until you find out about the nearly 100 bidders who drove the price up over $60,000 over the course of the weekend before the whole thing was scrapped by eBay.

Air from Kanye show.

But copycats haven't let that bummer ending deter them, as several similar posts have gone live, including another bag of West air — but this time infused with bay leaves — and a bag of air from a Garth Brooks concert.

Amal to teach at Columbia

George Clooney is coming to New York this spring to film Money Monster, and his wife won't just be hanging around seeing the sights.

Amal Clooney has announced that she will be teaching a course on human rights at Columbia Law School for the upcoming semester.

"It is an honour to be invited as a visiting professor at Columbia Law School alongside such a distinguished faculty and talented student pool," she says in a statement.

"I look forward to getting to know the next generation of human rights advocates studying here."

Amal Clooney

Cate Blanchett adopts baby

A spokeswoman for the actress said Friday that Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton have adopted a baby girl. Edith Vivian Patricia Upton joins the couple's three sons, ages 6, 10 and 13. Publicist Stephanie Gonzalez said no other details will be provided. Blanchett can next be seen on the big screen in Disney's Cinderella. The 45-year-old actress won her second Academy Award last year: best actress for Blue Jasmine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cate Blanchett

SCENE

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Homeland. Fifth season to be set in Germany, Carrie no longer a CIA officer

Time will fly between the fourth and fifth season of the Showtime spy drama Homeland, the series' executive producer Alex Gansa said.

"We're going to take about a two-year forward jump," Gansa said Friday at the opening night of PaleyFest, the annual TV celebration at the Dolby Theatre.

On the purple carpet, Gansa said the next Homeland season will be filmed in Europe, most likely in Berlin. He said the setting would be Germany.

The fourth season of Homeland was shot in Cape Town, South Africa, which doubled for Islamabad and Kabul.

Gansa later told the PaleyFest audience that CIA officer Carrie Mathison, played by series star Claire Danes, will no longer be an intelligence officer.

Many of the Homeland crew members said the fourth season was critical to the series, given the death of the character Brody, portrayed by Damian Lewis, on the third season. So the show got a "reboot," said director Lesli Linka Glatter, referring to the fourth season's new plot direction and darker-than-ever twists. Showtime renewed the show for a fifth season in November. PaleyFest organizers said about 20,000 fans were expected over the course of the 10-day festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hollywood. Sean Penn refuses to apologize for his 'green card' Oscar joke

Sean Penn has opened up about the green card joke heard around the world. He talked about it Saturday in Beverly Hills during a promotional tour for his new film The Gunman, saying that he has "absolutely no apologies" for his comment.

On Feb. 22 at the 87th Academy Awards, Penn, tasked with presenting the best picture award, made waves when he opened the envelope and first asked "Who gave this son of a bitch his green card?" before announcing the winner as Birdman. Directed by the Mexican-born Alejandro Inarritu, many wondered whether the joke was distasteful.

Sean Penn says he's "always surprised by flagrant stupidity." GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France takes Anglo angle in bid for TV supremacy

New series. With a $30-million budget and an English script, France hopes the show Versailles will capture a global audience

The story

Versailles focuses on the early years of the reign of Louis XIV — the grand and self-proclaimed "Sun King" — when he ordered the vast and vastly expensive Palace of Versailles be built to house his court away from Paris and its intrigues.

Back in the day, the prospect of a French king speaking English would have been enough to trigger a century-long war.

Not any more, as evidenced by what will be France's most-expensive TV series ever: Versailles, a period mini-series of 10 episodes that will come out at the end of this year.

The makers of the series, about the famous Palace of Versailles outside Paris and King Louis XIV who had it built, have bowed before the inescapable domination of English as the global language of entertainment. Thus their French king, one of history's most iconic monarchs, is British. Indeed, most of the cast is British or Canadian. French performers are relegated to supporting roles or in the background.

The reason for such sacrilege in a country known for protecting its language and culture is simple: France no longer wants to sit on the sidelines of the international resurgence in television. It has seen the revolution sweeping the small screen, with cinema-grade productions being made by new players including Netflix and Amazon, and it wants to be part of it. And that means adopting English. It also means spending big. At $30 million (around $3 million per episode, each taking 12 days to film), Versailles is the costliest TV production put on in France.

That's the sort of cash an "American super-production" would throw at the screen, boasts George Blagden, the English actor who incarnates the 28-year-old Louis XIV. The producers — France's Canal+, Capa Drama and Zodiak Fiction allied with Canada's Incendo — are gambling their series can win the same worldwide business generated by the British-Irish-Canadian TV hit The Tudors, or the British drama Downton Abbey. Claude Chelli, of Capa Drama, makes no bones about it. He says the decision to film Versailles in English was "to ensure the biggest international distribution possible."

The script itself is also crafted in English by Simon Mirren (former executive producer the U.S. series Criminal Minds) and David Wolstencroft (who created the well-received spy series Spooks).

Six months of filming wrapped up last week with a torture scene in the underground of a castle watched over by Blagden, 25, who exudes regal airs under a wig of long curls and a vest adorned with braids.

AFP

In the show Versailles, the pomp and elegance of King Louis's court will be on display in front of the actual palace, seen here. THOMAS SAMSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Kemper loves dark comedy Tina Fey wrote for her

Ellie Kemper as Kimmy Schmidt.
ERIC LIEBOWIT/COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Most people are trying to hide one or two weird things about themselves in their day-to-day lives, but Kimmy Schmidt, the main character in the new Tina Fey Netflix show Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, is hiding something a bit weirder. She's just escaped a doomsday cult after 15 years, but that isn't stopping her from trying to make a go of it in New York City. And who better to play the wide-eyed innocence of someone who grew up in an underground bunker than Ellie Kemper, who's made something of a specialty of playing innocents?

Why do you think people like casting you as these innocent characters?

I have a really big face, so I think that when I smile, it's just a big smile, because it's in proportion to the rest of my face. Some of the characters I play err on the side of ditzy, but Kimmy is not a ditz. I think any lack of knowledge she has is purely from a lack of experience and not a lack of intelligence. There's a resourcefulness and a craftiness there that enables her to go through those 15 years in the bunker. You can't be a survivor unless you are smart. It reminds me of Will Ferrell's character in Elf. Everything is new and shiny to her because she hasn't been there before. But when she does say things that might seem a little clownish or goofy, it's purely from a lack of experience.

The show has a pretty dark premise. How do you balance that with the humour?

I think the subject matter is so serious and tragic and dark and needs to be dealt with very carefully. I think (co-creator Robert Carlock) and Tina did a great job of treating such a dark premise and were able to make a comedy from it. Writing is so key to that, of course, and I think that when something tragic or dark does happen, it doesn't mean you have to shy away from comedy.

LISA WEIDENFELD/METRO U.S.

We're going to Mars this week with Andy Weir's amazing eBook and on a trip to Disneyland with a fun camera app.

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Video game

Name. ScreamRide

For. Xbox 360/Xbox One

Rated. Everyone 10+

Getting a roller coaster to perform skateboard tricks is fun. You want to feel like you're in the hands of a maniac and the only way you get that is by downloading custom levels made by other players willing to ignore the rules.

App

Disney Side

iPhone/iPad
Free

Become your favourite Star Wars or Disneyland character with this face-tracking camera app that can adjust for eyeglasses and facial hair with impressive ease, creating both photo and video

Ebooks

The Martian

By. Andy Weir

Kindle/iBooks/Kobo

Stranded on Mars, astronaut Mark Watney can't stop laughing. His life expectancy is dire, his isolation is bleak, yet he perseveres in this well-researched survival thriller.

Notice of Hearing for Permanent Guardianship Order To
Joshawa Huskins

Take notice that on the **10th day of March 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Permanent Guardianship Order** of your child born on **December 21, 2014**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Daniella Eggink
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

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LIFE 3

Stop making debt excuses

Money management. It's easy to find reasons why you're not digging yourself out of a financial hole, but you need to face reality

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

Every time I think I've heard it all, someone pops up with a new way to excuse the fact that they're up to their eyeballs in debt. While the most recent research says that people are slowing their consumption of debt, and we should all feel good about that, I hear from a lot of people that haven't yet got the message. They're still saying things like this:

"We got a consolidation loan and paid off our credit cards." Really, you paid off your debt with other debt? That is not paid off, my little chickadee.

Consolidation makes sense when you lower your interest costs and then work aggressively to repay the debt. But if you're sitting back smugly because you've found a less expensive way to go broke, give your head a shake.

"Everybody's in debt, so what's the big deal?" And if everyone were running naked down the highway you'd do that, too? There's no question that debt has become so pervasive that it seems like everyone's in it.

And if you grew up in a family that had it all, including the debt, you may think this is "normal." It's not! You can make the choice to remain a money moron, or you can choose financial stability.

"I don't have time to budget." Really, your most important resource and you don't have the time to manage it? Could it be that your priorities are a little skewed? Did you know that men spend about 3.5 hours and women 2.75 hours every day watching TV?

Hey, you only need to reallocate a measly half-hour each week to money management to go from being a financial slug to not.

"My partner is the problem." I've met couples where one person is the major culprit. The other person stands meekly by as Mr. or Mrs. I-have-to-have-everything charges them into a debt hole. They shrug and claim to have no ability to change their partner's behaviour.

Here's my big question: Is this the way you're going to live the rest of your life, walking a tightrope, waiting for the axe to fall? And if you have children, do you think this is creating any sense of security?

These are the same people who turn around and use their debt as the excuse for why they're not stashing away some money for the future. Even those who think they're working hard at paying down their debt are often doing little more than throwing money at their debt. They've never taken the time to figure out how much goes to interest and how much is actually paying down the balance.

If you're serious about getting out of debt, you're not just looking at the minimum payment to keep your credit score nice and shiny. You've set a deadline and done the math to meet that deadline.

Know that if you extend the amount of time you take to pay off the debt, you'll end up paying far more in interest.

Debt-free in three steps

Here is a step-by-step guide to get out of a single debt. You must do this for every consumer debt you have.

1. Take your credit card balance, multiply by the interest rate, and divide by 12. That's the monthly interest you're paying to carry that debt. So if you're $13,500 is costing you 18.9 per cent in interest, it's costing you 13500 x 18.9 ÷ 100 ÷12 = $212.62 a month in interest.

2. Take the balance and divide by the number of months in which you want to be out of debt. So if your balance is $13,500 and you want to be out of debt in 24 months, it'd be $13,500 ÷ 24. That'll give you your monthly principal repayment of $562.50.

3. Add the two together to get your monthly payment. $212.62+562.50 = $775.12. If the payment seems to be bigger than you can manage, you have two options:

a) You can extend the number of months for the principal repayment calculation.

b) You can make more money.

Sometimes in relationships, there's a Mr. I-have-to-have-everything whose spending habits don't allow the couple to pay down debt. ISTOCK

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This recipe serves four. ROSE REISMAN

Wrap fish in a flavourful crust

Dinner. Mushrooms and almonds make a crispy topping for Tilapia

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

A mild white fish like Tilapia goes well with a flavourful topping. This sautéed mushroom and almond crust is the perfect match.

You can use any mushroom you like, but my favourites are either oyster or brown mushrooms. Be sure to sauté them long enough to eliminate excess moisture.

Use any nut of your choice, such as pecans or even pistachios for colour. A hot oven of 425 F will ensure a crisper topping.

Tilapia is available all year long either fresh or frozen. You can substitute with grouper, halibut, haddock or basa.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil sprayed with vegetable oil.

2. In large skillet, add oil and sauté mushrooms, garlic, salt and pepper for 5 to 8 minutes or until cooked and moisture has evaporated.

3. Place in the bowl of food processor, along with almonds, parsley and juice. Pulse just until well mixed.

4. Spread Dijon thinly over top of fish. Pat mushroom mixture over top of fish and bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness.

5. Garnish with parsley and lemon wedges.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped wild mushrooms
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 lb tilapia or other white firm fish

Garnish

- Chopped parsley
- 4 lemon wedges

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Veggie-rich pea soup a hearty meal

Directions

1. In a nonstick saucepan sprayed with vegetable spray, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and onions. Cook for 4 minutes or until softened.

2. Stir in the stock, potatoes, split peas, rice, bay leaves, basil and oregano. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium-low, cover and cook for 20 - 25 minutes or until the peas and rice are tender.

3. Stir in the green beans, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Cook, covered, for 5 minutes or until the green beans are tender-crisp. Garnish with Parmesan.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 3/4 cup chopped onions
- 6 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 cup diced sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup dried green split peas
- 1/3 cup brown rice
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 1/2 cups green beans cut in 1-inch pieces
- 1 cup diced plum tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Garnish

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Advice

I'm losing my loonies at lunch hour

OFFICE SPACE
Eleni Deacon
life@metronews.ca

Dear Metro,
I spend about $50-75 per week buying lunch at various restaurants near my office. It's a huge waste of money, but I hate cooking and have no foresight when it comes to planning meals. I know I'll never manage to bring my lunch every single day, but I'd like to cut my spending in half. Any tips?
—Friends & Rivals

Dear F&R,
There are lots of lunch-packing strategies that don't involve an oven or a wooden spoon. You may, however, have to visit a grocery store. Don't start with a three-course feast. Simple sandwiches—basic bologna, classic PB&J—are an easy way to integrate home-assembled specialties into your takeout routine. The ingredients cost as much as one bento box, but will last several lunches.

And you know that strange room where your co-workers always go? That's your office kitchen. Use it! During your Monday lunch hour, grab salad fixings at a nearby market, then store them in the fridge for use throughout the week. Or stock one drawer of your desk with canned soup. Despite your culinary aversion, consider mastering a few big-yield staples. Chili and stir-fry are not only easy to make, they also taste better the next day.

Dear Metro,
I work at a digital agency where we're constantly pitching new campaign ideas. Although I work hard to come up with fun concepts, my boss nixes everything I suggest. I've tried big ideas, conservative ideas, super-wacky ideas—nothing gets the thumbs-up. I'm starting to think it's personal! How can I break past this creative roadblock?
— Quit Ignoring Meeee

Dear QIM,
Your ideas may be fun—but are they good? Before retaliating, do some self-evaluating.

Maybe your big ideas weren't feasible within budget. Maybe your fun ideas didn't quite capture the client's brand. And your wacky ideas might just be off the mark. The first step to being heard: delivering pitches worth a listen. Still getting nowhere? Get to know your boss. Pay attention to the ideas that do move forward, taking note of what they have that yours don't. Rather than fixating on a suspected personal vendetta, focus on your own personal growth. Tell your superior that you want to improve your performance, and ask for guidance. If they seem opposed to the entire concept of your success, consider a new idea: finding a different job.

Game-makers going it alone

Work. Independent studios boldly taking on blockbusters in an evolving gaming world

Thousands of game makers attended the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco last week. AFP PHOTO

"This is the largest family reunion of game developers in the year," International Game Developers Association chief executive Kate Edwards told AFP at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco last week.

Veterans from big-name studios behind Triple A console games were in the crowd and headlining sessions, but independent game makers were being touted as the people shaking up the industry with creative new approaches to play.

"Indie game makers are basically democratizing game development," Edwards said.

"It is one of the most exciting things we have seen in this industry in a long time; I think it is a form of revolution."

At the heart of the revolution is the fact that tools for making video games are ubiquitous and often free, meaning people can take a shot at it the same way they could get pencil and paper to try writing a book, according to Edwards.

Distribution of independent games is equally accessible through online services such as Steam or Apple's App Store or Google Play which stock shelves with digital games for play on smartphones or tablets.

Risk takers

Game developer Jenna Hoffstein founded Little Worlds Interactive studio in Boston, where she is a member of a collective of indies.

She works solo, farming some work out to contractors while producing games. Her latest title, Counting Kingdom, has won raves for combining education with fun.

Titles being developed by others in the collective include a rhythm game that casts a player as a monkey trying to save the rainforest, and Robot Roller Derby Disco Dodge Ball, which Hoffstein said was pretty much what the name suggested.

Independent studios tend to take a lot more creative risk than big operations behind Triple A titles, perhaps because launching a dud of a game could cost hundreds of workers their jobs along with losing millions of dollars in production costs, those interviewed by AFP reasoned.

"The indie scene is really this proliferation of interesting, unique, possibly total-failure ideas," Hoffstein said. "Because the independent is only risking their own salary, we have these zany, unique, off-the-wall ideas." AFP

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A slam dunk for gender equality

Workplace. Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg enlists NBA stars to persuade more men to support women's rights

Sandberg has enlisted NBA stars LeBron James, Stephen Curry and some of the basketball league's other top players to convince more men to join the fight for women's rights at home and at work. RICHARD DREW / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg has enlisted NBA stars LeBron James, Stephen Curry and some of the basketball league's other top players to convince more men to join the fight for women's rights at home and at work.

The players will deliver the message in public service announcements aired during NBA games on major TV networks over the next few months.

Sandberg is hoping to persuade men that they will be better off financially and emotionally if they take more responsibility for housework and child care, while also backing equal rights for women at work.

"Gender equality doesn't just benefit women, it benefits men in lots of ways," Sandberg said in an interview with The Associated Press. Among other things, she believes most women are likely to have sex with their husbands or partners more frequently when they get more help at home — a phenomenon she has branded as "choreplay."

The clips featuring the basketball stars are part of a partnership between the NBA and LeanIn.org, a nonprofit group Sandberg started two years ago with the publication of a bestselling book advising women on the steps they should take to ensure they get the same opportunities as men traditionally have.

The book, Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead, also urged men to do more to support the women and girls in their lives.

Sandberg, Facebook's second-highest ranking executive behind CEO Mark Zuckerberg, is counting on the NBA's appeal to connect with millions of sports-loving men who haven't read her book.

LeanIn.org is providing men with tips on how to help in brochures that will be available online as part of the campaign with the NBA.

Facebook is among a long list of major Silicon Valley companies with a dearth of women in engineering and other technical positions, where the best-paying jobs are found.

"Certainly technology has an uphill battle to fight, but no industry has gotten to where it should be," Sandberg said. "The only way anything really changes in society is when we have everyone in society pulling together."

Several technology companies, including Facebook, Google, Yahoo and Microsoft are backing a campaign that will be punctuated with #LeanInTogether.

The National Basketball Association has been running a separate league for women for nearly 20 years. Several WNBA players, including All-Stars Sue Bird and Skylar Diggins, appear in the public service announcement that also features the Golden State Warriors' Curry and the Cleveland Cavaliers' James, the players who got the most votes in the fan balloting for last month's NBA All-Star game.

The union representing the NBA players also elected a woman, Michele Roberts, as its executive director last year. Meanwhile, the San Antonio Spurs hired woman, former WNBA star Becky Hammon, as an assistant coach at the start of this season.

"The NBA is committed to creating a work environment that expects — and benefits from —gender equality," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The only way anything really changes in society is when we have everyone in society pulling together."

Sheryl Sandberg
Chief operating officer of Facebook

Women in tech

- Women hold just 15 to 20 per cent of the technology jobs at Google, Apple, Facebook and Yahoo, according to company disclosures made during the past nine months.

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A sick timeline. Influenza's greatest hits

JACQUELINE KOVACS
For Metro

If you have been felled by this year's flu, it may be a small comfort to know that this nasty, mutating virus has been around for at least 2,000 years, even if folks didn't label it quite correctly.

Here is a look at influenza's greatest hits over the centuries.

4th century BC: Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, doesn't name the virus, but notes the symptoms. It's a tricky illness to identify since many of its miserable symptoms are found in other ailments.

1493: A sickness that looks a lot like the flu wipes out most of the indigenous people in the Antilles, shortly after world explorer Christopher Columbus arrives.

1580: The flu breaks out in Russia and spreads to Europe via Africa. Spain loses almost entire cities to the virus, and it kills more than 8,000 people in Rome.

1918: The Spanish flu, one of the worst and most infamous flu pandemics, strikes and takes the lives of between 50 million and 100 million people.

1957: Thought to have originated in China, Asian flu wipes out about two million people, according to the World Health Organization.

1968: Hong Kong flu kills about one million people globally. It then returns in 1969, 1970 and 1972.

1977: Russian flu appears in Northern China and is similar to the Asian flu of 1957. Because of its similarity, those who had survived the earlier Asian flu tend to have immunities.

2002 and 2003: New strains of flu appear, including H5N1, H7N7 and H10MN7.

2005-2009: Humans infected with H5N1 appear in such places as China, Eastern Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

2009: H1N1, a flu originating in swine, is declared a pandemic by the WHO. It's the same strain that caused the Spanish flu in 1918.

The flu virus has been causing havoc around the world for at least 2,000 years. SHUTTERSTOCK

Avoiding the virus

- How can you avoid the flu? A healthy lifestyle, including a well-balanced diet, plenty of sleep, good hygiene — especially frequent handwashing — and staying well hydrated can go a long way. A flu vaccine can help you go the distance. Sure, some years they may be only 50 per cent effective, but as the medical community points out, that's a 50 per cent better chance that you may not catch the virus.

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4 SPORTS

Tennis

Pospisil plays the hero as Canada defeats Japan

Vasek Pospisil defeated Go Soeda in straight sets Sunday to lead Canada past Japan 3-2 and into the quarter-finals of the Davis Cup.

The 24-year-old won 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in one hour 49 minutes in front of a partisan crowd in Vancouver, his hometown.

Canada started the day up 2-1 in the best-of-five World Group first-round tie, but Milos Raonic couldn't close it out against Kei Nishikori, falling in a five-set thriller. Nishikori, ranked No. 4 in the world, beat the sixth-ranked Raonic 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in three hours four minutes to keep his country alive in the tie. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PGA

Johnson a winner shortly after return

A month after he returned from his curious leave of absence, Dustin Johnson was posing with another trophy.

In a power show Sunday on the Blue Monster at Doral, Johnson was flawless on the back nine and closed with a 3-under 69 to win the Cadillac Championship for his second World Golf Championship.

Johnson took advantage of a collapse by J.B. Holmes, who lost a five-shot lead and closed with a 75 to finish one shot behind. Masters champion Bubba Watson made three bogeys on the back nine and shot 71 to finish two shots behind.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Team Canada skip Pat Simmons, left, is hoisted up by third John Morris as they celebrate defeating Northern Ontario in the gold-medal game of the Brier at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Sunday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada pulls off upset to win Brier

Curling. After taking over skip duties, Simmons carries rink to championship

The first team to wear the Maple Leaf at the Canadian men's curling championship can wear it again next year.

Pat Simmons, John Morris, Carter Rycroft and Nolan Thiessen upset Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs 6-5 in an extra end of Sunday's final of the Tim Hortons Brier.

With a guarded Northern Ontario stone on the four-foot rings, Simmons drew for a piece of the button and the win.

"I'm really proud of the boys for hanging in there today," Simmons said. "It was a tough mental battle out there against a great team."

The Glencoe Club foursome from Calgary will represent Canada at the Ford World Curling Championship in Halifax later this month and earned an automatic entry into next year's Brier in Ottawa as Team Canada again.

A shakeup to their lineup earlier in the week transformed the team into a contender. A demoralizing loss to Saskatchewan on the third day of the tournament dropped them to 2-3.

Bronze-medal match

Earlier Sunday, Saskatchewan's Steve Laycock defeated Newfoundland and Labrador's Brad Gushue 7-5 in 11 ends for bronze.

Morris made the eyebrow-raising decision that night to demote himself to third and hand skipping duties over to Simmons. They went on a 5-1 run with their lone loss to Jacobs and claimed the fourth and final playoff berth with a 7-4 record.

Northern Ontario went 10-1 to top the preliminary round. The reigning Olympic champions won the Page playoff game Friday against Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador to earn an express ticket to the final.

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Flames' comeback falls short

NHL. Senators squander four-goal lead, barely hold on to victory in shootout

Third-period leads haven't been safe this season when facing the Calgary Flames. And the Ottawa Senators nearly learned that the hard way on Sunday.

Erik Karlsson scored the winner in the sixth round of the shootout as the Senators held on to defeat the Flames 5-4 after blowing a four-goal lead in the final 20 minutes.

"We knew they were going to come (in the third) and they're a team that doesn't quit and we saw that tonight," Senators forward Mika Zibanejad said.

Alex Chiasson, Milan Michalek, Mark Borowiecki and Mike Hoffman scored in regulation for the Senators (30-23-11) while Craig Anderson made 42 saves.

Kris Russell scored twice for the Flames (36-25-5) while Joe Colborne and Mikael Backlund had one each.

On Sunday

Senators	Flames
5	4

Colborne scored at 6:56 of the third to end the shutout bid of Anderson, who was making his first start since Jan. 21- a span of 17 games.

Russell scored a power-play goal at 11:28 and 59 seconds later Backlund ended a wild scramble by beating Anderson and trimming the Senators lead to 4-3.

"We just really got away from our game," Borowiecki said. "We got a little too cute and I think maybe we thought it was point night going into that (third) period- rack 'em up and pad the stats.

Russell tied the game at 17:45 to force the extra session and shootout.

The win was the third straight for the Senators, who have won eight of their past nine. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

The Senators' Mark Stone checks Josh Jooris of the Flames at Canadian Tire Centre on Sunday night. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Canes beat Oilers in barnburner

Elias Lindholm had three goals and two assists, Jeff Skinner scored twice and Carolina rallied from three goals down to beat the Edmonton Oilers 7-4 on Sunday.

Lindholm's hat trick was the first of his career, and Alexander Semin and Andrej Nestrasi also scored for Carolina, who last erased a three-goal deficit exactly one year ago in a 5-4 loss at the New York Islanders. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Avalanche hold off late Wild run

Semyon Varlamov stopped 29 shots, Zach Redmond had a goal and an assist, and the Colorado Avalanche beat the Minnesota Wild 3-2 on Sunday night.

Cody McLeod and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for Colorado.

Chris Stewart and Thomas Vanek both scored late for the Wild.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raptors suffer the wrath of Westbrook

Russell Westbrook posted his fifth triple-double in six games to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Toronto Raptors 108-104 on Sunday night.

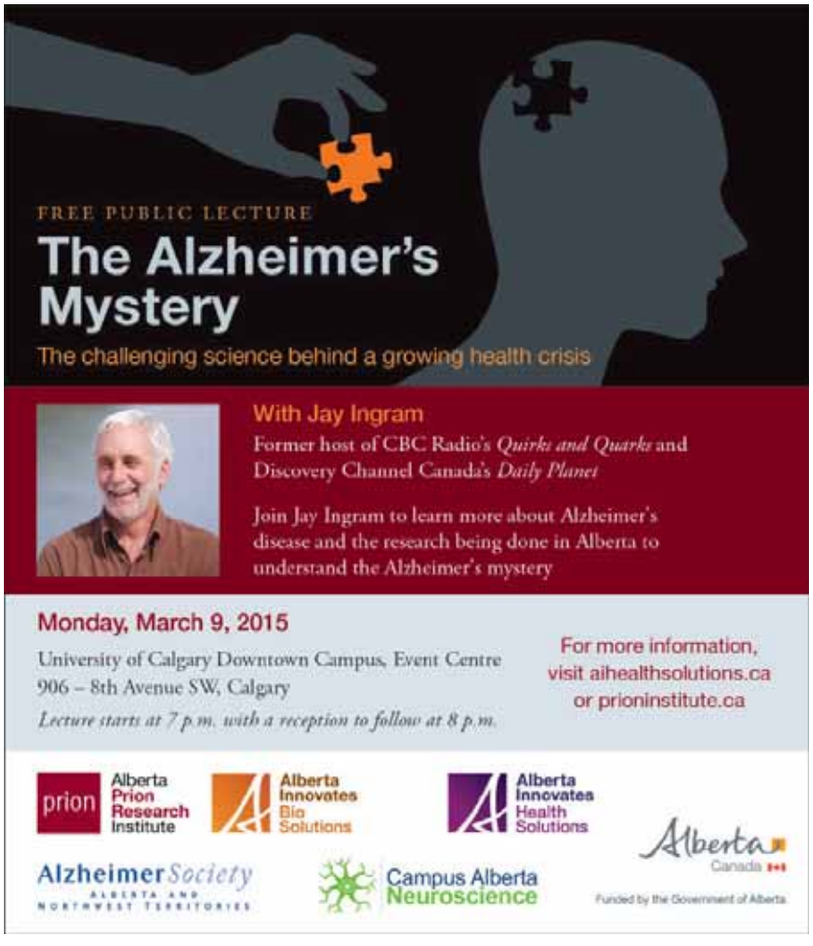
Westbrook, the NBA's leading scorer, had 30 points, matched a career high with 17 assists and grabbed 11 rebounds for his seventh triple-double of the season and 15th of his career.

Enes Kanter had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Serge Ibaka had 21 points and five blocks for the Thunder. The Thunder shot 51 per cent from the field and outrebounded the Raptors 49-33.

DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points and Terrence Ross added 20 for the Raptors, who lost their third straight.

Toronto had just eight turnovers all game. Toronto made all nine of its free throws.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You don't have to wait until later this month to plan what you are going to do. Start now. The more you look ahead the more successful you will be.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Don't take someone's negative remarks to heart because either they don't mean what they say or they don't realize how offensive it sounds to you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if the world is falling apart but it really isn't that bad, and what is bad is part of a larger plan.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
One of the most challenging times of the year will begin when the Sun changes signs on the 20th but between now and then there are plenty of things you can do to make life easier for yourself.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Make an effort to talk over your problems, especially your money problems, with someone who can not only lend a sympathetic ear but can help you with practical advice.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have been playing a number of roles in recent weeks but you need to remember that they are make believe and not reality.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Look for ways to co-operate with colleagues and people in positions of power. You have wasted enough time and energy trying to outdo each other.

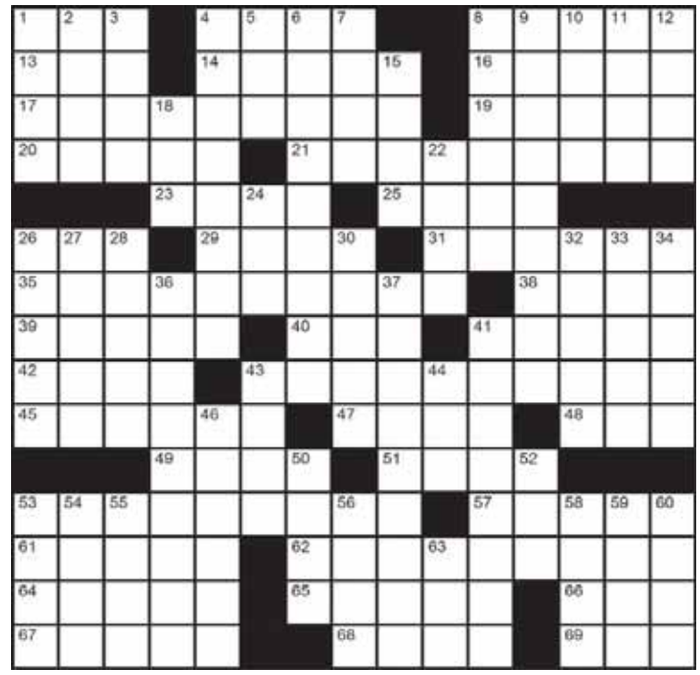
♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you have become too set in your ways of late — yes, even more so than usual — and now you must loosen up a little and let other possibilities into your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Focus on what really matters. It may be hard for someone like you who is so easily bored to concentrate on just one thing.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Looking around at the world you might come to the conclusion that the times are not as good as they should be. So how can you make them better?

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your mind will have to work hard this week, so don't do anything too strenuous physically.

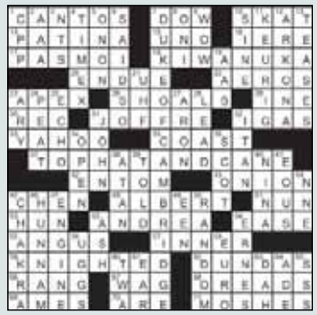
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What you own and what you earn is on your mind constantly at the moment but don't worry yourself sick about it. There are more important things in life than dollars and cents, so keep a sense of perspective.



Across
1. Vintner's 'dry'
4. Howard Stern's producer 'Mr. Booey'
8. Comic actor Mr. Shore
13. Clearasil rival, __ 5
14. "_ __ Life" (1998)
16. Prefix pertaining to blood vessels
17. Animated comedy on FOX: 2 wds.
19. Opera soprano Beverly
20. Rectify
21. Vancouver Island town, 'Heritage by the Sea'
23. "_, __ is me!"
25. Palm starch
26. Back then
29. Bus. name abbreviations
31. 6/49 and Max
35. Big park in Montreal: 2 mots
38. Suffix meaning 'collection'
39. Seizes
40. Melissa of movies
41. Marlon Brando's "Superman" (1978) role
42. Water bird
43. Archie: Riverdale High professor
45. 50th Anniversary! Song from "The Sound of Music" (1965)
47. Pipsqueak pup
48. Sample
49. Archeological site of western Iran
51. __ Alberni, BC
53. Words stamped on a spy's dossier
57. Mirage vision
61. Mrs. '__ Goes to Paris (Paul Gallico novel)
62. Place to check outerwear
64. Bar chair
65. Man, in Montreal
66. Skater Midori
67. 'Sleep'-meaning prefix
68. 'Kind' suffix
69. Don't keep up

Down
1. Chesterfield
2. Test
3. Flower cluster
4. Pianos of this brand
5. 'Lull' ending
6. Taps, for one: 2 wds.
7. Water: Spanish
8. Turn a particular Monopoly corner: 2 wds.
9. Band performing the song at #36-Down
10. Fancy fruit
11. Lively tune
12. Mr. Shmenge ("SCTV" character)
15. Late guitarist Mr. Barrett's
18. Ancient veil-giver
22. Ivy League school
24. Man. neighbour
26. Chilly
27. Legendary Greta
28. Breath __ __ (It's nice when it's fresh)
30. Historic French title of respect
32. Predictions pack
33. __ __ the other (Not both)
34. Chips, often
36. "FashionTelevision" theme tune
37. Song by Canadian singer Kandle: 4 wds.
41. Canoeist's keeping-straight paddling moves
43. Financial-related, briefly
44. Antacid brand
46. Morning mixture
50. Architectural shape
52. Road surface
53. Itar-__ (Russian news agency)
54. A conjunction/A preposition... Together here.
55. Graduation ball
56. Mr. Musk
58. Earth
59. Bit
60. City haze
63. Morning hrs.

Yesterday's Crossword

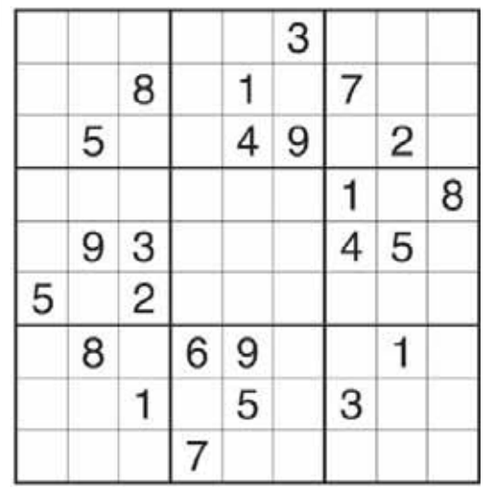


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	8	5	4	3	9	2	7
5	7	2	6	8	9	3	1	4
9	3	4	2	7	1	5	6	8
4	2	6	3	1	8	7	5	9
3	5	1	9	6	7	8	4	2
7	8	9	4	2	5	1	3	6
1	4	5	8	9	2	6	7	3
8	6	3	7	5	4	2	9	1
2	9	7	1	3	6	4	8	5

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